

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Radisson, Grand Forks & Virtual
May 5 - 6, 2022**

Call to Order: Russ Cusack called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Members Present: LaRae Gustafson, Nancy Lundon, Joe Yasenchack, Shannon Cook, Chelsy Sondrol, Gillian Plenty Chief, Leon Dietrich, Brenda Boehler, Deb Unruh, Ali Brown, Angie Bosch

Members Absent: Jan Beddes, Ben Johnson

Non-Council Members Present: Aimee Volk, Damian Schlinger, Royce Schultze, Scott Burlingame

Approval of February 2022 Minutes: Nancy Lundon made a motion to approve the February 2022 SILC minutes as amended to add Deb Unruh as present on Thursday 2-3-22, Shannon Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Approval of the May 2022 Agenda: Shannon Cook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, LaRae Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Correspondence – Russ Cusack:

The Rural Disability Hub for COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach is a partnership with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and rural disability leaders throughout Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. We are looking for local leaders to serve as Vaccine Ambassadors in their rural communities to provide useful and relevant information, so people with disabilities in rural areas, and those closest to them, can choose to make safe and informed decisions about their health.

The Statewide Plan for Independent Living is due June 30, 2023. Went over the timeline and we will be sending out the triennial survey on May 18, 2022, using Survey Monkey and mailings. The closing date on the survey will be June 8, 2022. The SPIL Team will be Scott Burlingame, Randy Sorensen, LaRae Gustafson, Royce Schultze, Angie Bosch, Russ Cusack, Damian Schlinger, Aimee Volk, and Shannon Cook.

Treasurer's Report – Shannon Cook: Reviewed the Treasurer's Report.

The DSE also got \$121,081 in funds for the Public Health Workforce Funding (PHWF). This grant is to cover wages and benefits for public health professionals as well as the costs of associated equipment, training, and supplies for these professionals and indirect costs

The SILC Congress is May 15th – May 18th, 2022, and Brenda Boehler will be attending.

Gillian Plenty Chief made a motion to accept the Treasure's Report as presented, Nancy Lundon seconded the motion to approve. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Vote on Bylaws

Discussed the amendment to change one-term to one-year in between reapplication to the SILC.

Nancy Lundon made a motion to accept the Bylaws as presented, LaRae Gustafson seconded the motion to approve. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Veteran's Issues – Revel Sapa

Discussed the services and requirements to jobs within Veteran's Services. There are 53 counties in ND and there are 52 counties that are part of the ND Association of Counties. Bismarck is the only county that is not part. She discussed the services and other agencies they work with and who individuals can go to. Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOX) there are eight of them in the state. Vet Centers is a readjustment program that is community based that provide services to the individual or spouse. They are working heavily on getting veterans service connected.

There is the VA healthcare and benefits. Veterans must bring in their healthcare records to get service connected. Benefits vary from county to county. They are working with individuals that come out of the military to find work or skills going into general civilian workforce.

They have transportation vans that go every Tuesday, or they can provide milage to individuals for appointments.

North Dakota QSP Hub – Rebecca Quinn, Carly Endres, Michelle Meyers

This group was approached to do a support program for Qualified Service Providers (QSP). In January they started a new grant – North Dakota QSP HUB. ND is one of two states that have independent QSPs. The North Dakota QSP Hub is a centralized source of support and information for Qualified Service Providers. This was created as a network that provides support, educational tools, and training opportunities to walk QSPs and QSP agencies through all stages of the QSP process.

The Services/Assistance provided:

- One-on-one individualized support with:
 - Enrollment
 - Service authorizations
 - Electronic visit verification (Therap)
 - Documentation
 - Billing processes
 - Renewal
 - Business operations and processes
- Library of easy-to-use understand tip sheets and guides
- Create a mentoring network for QSPs and QSP agencies

- Create awareness of home and community-based service policy changes and updates

In the upcoming year an advisory group will be discussed. Noridian is processing the QSP application, and they are looking at making the application process easier.

SILC Annual Report Discussion

Scott presented the draft SILC Annual Report and the group reviewed.

LaRae Gustafson made a motion to accept the SILC Annual Report as presented, Brenda Boehler seconded the motion to approve. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

It was discussed how we want to get the SILC Annual Report and who should it be sent to.

- Elected Officials (each CIL will send it to their legislators)
- Agencies and Organizations that we work with
- County Social Services Zone (CILs will send to their region)

Deadline to send the SILC Annual Report is Friday May 20, 2022. To report on the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) it was decided to track who the SILC Annual Report is sent to

Committee Breakout

Friday, May 6, 2022

Call to Order: Russ Cusack called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Gillian Plenty Chief, Russ Cusack, Nancy Lundon, Joe Yasenchack, LaRae Gustafson, Ali Brown, Chelsy Sondrol, Shannon Cook, Leon Dietrich

Members Absent: Jan Beddes, Ben Johnson, Brenda Boehler, Deb Unruh

Non-Committee Members: Scott Burlingame, Aimee Volk, Damian Schlinger, Royce Schultze

ND Vision Services/School for the Blind (NDVS/SB) – Paul Olson

Paul went over the vision and mission of NDVS/SB. He also described the services they provide, age groups of individuals they serve, as well as their collaborative partners. Paul shared a video from their website.

Quarterly Director's Report:

Scott for Independence, Inc.: See attached.

Angie for Freedom: See attached.

Randy for Options: See attached.

Royce for Dakota Center for Independent Living: See attached.

Committee Reports:

Internal Affairs – Nancy Lundon: See Grid

External Affairs – Angie Bosch: See Grid

Governance Committee – Royce Schultze:

Vacancies:

1 in Quadrant 3 (Fargo area)

2 upcoming Members at Large

State Rehabilitation Council – Russ Cusack:

They had a meeting on April 20th in Bismarck. Currently, Vocational Rehabilitation is on track to meet their established goals. The State Plan was submitted. The VR Director is pushing staff to join community networks as a way to engage more collaboration within the community. Pat Walking Eagle in Spirit Lake is a new director.

Committee on Aging – Royce Schultze: Mike Chaussee discussed the MFP Grant which Assistive has received to improve their rural outreach, with a goal of the grant to get out into 25 communities and find ambassadors who will house technical devices, show the community what technology exists and, train them on the technology. Assistive has secured four ambassadors and they have not even started going out in the communities in a recruitment effort. ND Assistive is working on an evidence-based program, Capable, where trained professionals would go into the home and see what home improvements or modifications can be done to stay in their homes.

One council member is being called back to work as a nurse due to a shortage of nurses and they are seeing language barriers being an issue in providing good services.

One of the new initiatives Aging Services is required to address is malnutrition in older adults. They will hire or have a nutritionist on staff to write some new menus that may be more pleasing to this generation of older adults.

The committee has three priority topics for 2022. Have Voices for Home Modifications present on what they are doing and how we can assist. Engaging the construction industry in building more accessible homes and having the Long-Term Care Assoc present.

Traumatic Brain Injury Council – Shannon Cook: Met in February. ND was awarded the Community Living grant and there will be funds given towards the ND Brain Injury Network. Not everyone that applies for the 1915i has been able to receive assistance. As of January, the WHODAS score has been lowered to get more people assistance. The ND Protection and Advocacy are getting people trained and education for the individual justice planning so they stay on the right track.

Olmstead Commission – Scott Burlingame: See attached.

NASILC – Aimee Volk: NASILC Round Table Discussion that was held on March 7, 2022. The elected Region 8 representative is John Hill of Wyoming.

Monthly Region 8 Conference Call – Russ Cusack: N/A

Public Comment: N/A

The next SILC meeting will be August 4-5, 2022, in Fargo, ND and will have the virtual option.

Gillian Plenty Chief made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shannon Cook seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

SILC Directors Report – May 5, 2022
Scott Burlingame, Executive Director - Independence, Inc.
SILC Directors Report

Individual Services

Success Stories

For about two years, we have been a provider of the Opening Doors program. This program helping households with poor credit, a history of evictions or a criminal record to secure housing. We had a success story with this program that I want to share.

We had a consumer who came to us in September and had a history of behavioral health and addiction issues. Right away, he was super motivated to get a job. He quickly secured one at the restaurant- Primo. He is still employed there.

Our biggest barrier was housing. He was in a rehab program when he first started coming Independence, Inc. He has a lengthy criminal background, including multiple driving violations and drug related crimes. He wanted to find housing for when he got out. We called numerous people in Minot looking for someone who would be willing to rent to him and nobody would. Because of this, we signed him up for the Opening Doors program hoping that this would help his chances. Finally, in November, we found something. It was through a small private renter who was willing to give him a chance. The Opening Doors program was what really secured that piece of mind for his landlord. As we have contact with the landlord as part of the Opening Doors program, we can report that has been up to date on paying rent since moving in back in November.

Since coming to Independence, Inc. in September, he has secured a job, housing, remained cleaned from using drugs and is a full-time parent. He had pending charges from July 2021 which could have resulted in him serving prison time. However, after showing the judge all of his hard work and progress, he received additional probation time as opposed to serving time in prison. By not receiving prison time, he gets to continue working towards his goals, he gets to keep his housing and most importantly he isn't being taken away from his family.

We have a consumer that is in need of surgery on his back. He will be needing assistance with recovering from this however, the city of Sawyer was trying to condemn his house, this made it difficult for HCBS to authorize anyone to go inside. With the collaboration of 1st District Health Unit, we were able to clean up and utilize funding to have Magic City Dumpster come in and remove the hazards from the property. This has made his house accessible again and not in condemned status. He is now able to safely have HCBS services in his home after he has surgery. He will not have to go into a nursing home or rehab facility.

A female with mental health and addiction issues whom we helped find and move into her own apartment. She is meeting with our peer support specialist on a regular basis. She is now taking parenting classes and getting vital records in hopes of getting her children back.

A 37-year-old man worked with Independence Inc. staff to get a state ID, learn about the bus system, learn computer skills, and find a job. Independence Inc. staff explained the bus system to him. Afterwards, he regularly took the bus. Independence Inc. staff showed the man how to create an email address and apply for jobs online. After applying for a job at a restaurant, he took the bus to a job interview and got the job.

A 60-year-old man who stopped working a few years ago due to medical conditions wanted to get back to work. Independence Inc. staff explained the bus system to him and he independently began taking the bus. Independence Inc. staff referred the man to Vocational Rehab. He is currently working with Independence Inc. staff and Vocational Rehab to learn computer skills, apply for jobs, and get back into the workforce.

A 41-year-old man who has been in and out of rehab for years. He has major health problems and was reluctant to change. He was on the verge of institutionalization, but he has made a commitment to be a better version of himself. He has begun to take an active role in his care, meeting with health care providers and getting needed treatment. He is following through on meetings and in general, being accountable in life.

A 33-year-old female came to Independence, Inc. seeking assistance on her path in recovery. Since working with us, she has accomplished many goals. She passed her learner's permit test and her road test, resulting in her getting her driver's license. She purchased a vehicle and got it fully insured. She has taken on more responsibility at the sober living home she resides in and has a management role. She has implemented a budget into her daily life and is using that as motivation for getting her own place. She continues to make new goals and consistently works on accomplishing them.

We had a consumer who is from Minot but had been living in Maine for a while. Fear and uncertainty can become a barrier to living independently, and that is even more true when you are moving across states. Together, we found her an accessible apartment in Downtown Minot, and she is now doing great living in her own apartment. She utilizes public transportation to get around in the community, whether she is going on a shopping spree or to a doctor's appointment.

BEYOND Program

Our BEYOND Program was successfully completed in 21 different schools where we reached around 300 different students. A majority of the schools are part to the Pre-ETS grants we have with VR, however, Minot, our largest schools, are not part of that program.

As we are wrapping up the post program surveys, I thought I would share a few responses.

- *“If you get the opportunity to take this program, I would highly encourage you to do so because it can teach and reteach things that are essential in the “real world.”*
- *“It's cool because I get access to knowledge about jobs and more.”*

- *“How people were treated back then when they had a disability. What type of things I am interested in. Learned more about how other people deal with their disabilities.”*
- *“Although our time was quite short, I learned how to properly discuss topics in an interview.”*
- *“I learned about new abilities and how to get passed them and how to work with them.”*
- *“I learned how to speak up about my disability, and learn more about myself, also got to learn some more options when I get out of school.”*
- *“I learned all the resource places in Minot and all about self-advocacy.”*
- *“That I should know how my disability impacts me and my schoolwork.”*
- *“How people were treated back then when they had a disability. What type of things I am interested in. Learned more about how other people deal with their disabilities.”*

Community Transitions/ Preventions

So far this year, using all funding sources, we have transitioned 22 people from a nursing home (NH) into their own home. The biggest barriers they have had to overcome are issues around getting needed HCBS Services, housing, and their own health issues. We are working with another 18 people to get them out of a NH and have prevented 11 people from going into a NH.

We have assisted 8 people to move out of a homeless shelter or other similar congregate living arrangement and have prevented another 11 people who were at risk of going into that type of living arrangement.

Introducing Lunch Pals for Children with Disabilities

We are developing a new school-based peer mentoring program for elementary aged students with disabilities. Our program, called Lunch Pals for Children with Disabilities, will allow for students to develop relationships with adults who have similar disabilities.

This program will create a partnership between Companions for Children and Independence, Inc. to provide students with a one-on-one relationship to increase their opportunities in life through their participation in school-based mentoring program.

Companions for Children provides children with volunteer adults who empower them to reach their full potential through a mentoring relationship. Since the 2017 school year, they have provided Lunch Pals to meet a previously unmet need in the Minot Community. In this program, mentors meet with their mentee's two times per month between August and May at their pre-designated school. Unfortunately, Companions for Children has never had the capacity nor the staff expertise to serve children with disabilities.

Peer Mentoring is a core service of Independence, Inc. however, we have never had the capacity or staff expertise to serve young children.

Lunch Pals for Children with Disabilities will match trained mentors with disabilities with children with disabilities to have lunch twice per month during the 2022-2023 school year. Our goal is to serve 10 students in the first year.

Community Services

Minot Comprehensive Plan | Housing & Community Character Group

The City of Minot is leading an effort to update its comprehensive plan. The 2040 comprehensive plan will establish vision, goals, and strategies to guide growth and development in and around Minot over the next two decades. Plan development is guided by a public involvement process, in which area residents, business owners, and other stakeholders have an opportunity to share their perspectives and stay involved. I was invited to be part of this. Some of the biggest things talked about was the need for more walkable (and therefore accessible) communities, more integrated affordable housing, and more planning around livable communities.

Access Surveys

We have begun to get requests for accessibility access surveys. We recently had one at the Granville Community Center.

Minot Association Builders

The of Minot Association Builders invited us to have a booth at the Home & Garden Show. This was our first time having a booth at an event link this in over two years. We provided info on the importance of aging in place and planning for future accessibility needs when building.

The Minot Association of Builders also agreed to build a consumer of ours a ramp as part of their annual volunteer day.

Local Providers Meeting

A member of our Independent Living Ambassadors and myself are attending monthly meetings with a member of our city council. She is inviting multiple disability service providers to the meeting. We have had presentations from city planners and from local transportation providers.

Other

We had John Butgereit who is the Regional Director-North Central Human Service Center come to our staff meeting and talk about the many changes that have happened at the Human Service Center. Three changes that have been made are focusing on providing services people want, making use of more peer support services, focusing on community-based services, and implementing a harm reduction model of services.

Freedom Resource Center ND SILC Director's Report – May 2022

Fargo

- Two Living Well 103 IL Skills classes started in March. One group is for adults, the other class is made up of students from Fargo Public and West Fargo Public schools. The class is being offered both in person and on Zoom. Merri, IL Advocate facilitates both classes. Most of the attendees participated in all three classes with Merri. The classes started in September 2021.
- There have been 0 **MFP** transitions since the last meeting (February). Have 3 scheduled to move within a week. Working with 8 referrals.
- There have been 5 **ADRL** transitions since the last meeting (February). Working with 19.
- The four new IL Advocates hired since November 2021, Molly Anderson, Katelyn Vilmo, Ashley Gabehart & Gibb Sheets, they are amazing and doing a wonderful job.

Fargo *Consumer Story Spotlight*

Freedom Resource Center had the pleasure of assisting a man transition from the New Life Center in Fargo to an apartment in West Fargo. The ADRL grant assisted him with the deposit on the apartment and first few months of rent in addition to some start up items for his apartment. Through the process of working with him, when it came time to talk about a bed, Cindy was quite moved when he shared, he had never had a brand-new bed. He said he did not need a big bed; a twin mattress would be fine. He did not need many items for his apartment and the funds were there to purchase a larger mattress. During the time he was waiting to move into the apartment, he had hip surgery. We discussed it may be nice to have more room to roll over and change positions as his recovery from surgery continues. He got a bigger bed and reports to be sleeping well. He also has been referring others to Freedom Resource Center. Fargo consumer worked with Freedom Resource Center on a reasonable accommodation request with her landlord starting September 2020. After several denials, FRC reached out to High Plains Fair Housing and together, with the help of HPFH legal team, the consumer won her court case yesterday! She will receive a large financial settlement as a result.

Jamestown

- There have been 2 **MFP** transitions since February. Working with 5 referrals.
- There have been 0 **ADRL** transitions since February. 3 referrals.
- We finally filled the full-time position in the Jamestown office for IL Advocate, Ashley Gabehart joined our team, her first day was today.

Lisbon

- There have been 2 **MFP** transitions since the February. 0 referrals.
- There has been 1 **ADRL** transition since February. 0 referral.

Wahpeton

- There have been 0 **MFP** transitions since February. Working with 2 referrals.
- There has been 1 **ADRL** transition since the last meeting (February). 0 referrals.

Wahpeton *Consumer Story Spotlight*

Joyce in our Wahpeton office worked with a 6th grade student. He had extreme anxiety and was unable to attend classes he seldom went to school or left the house. The anxiety was new this year and progressively became worse throughout the school year. The school neglected their duty in "Child Find", a federal law to identify students who may qualify for an IEP. Instead, they threatened the parents with truancy and court, even though the parents

were candid about his struggles and requested an IEP evaluation. The school only offered a possible 504 Plan, but in the meantime insisted that he attend school, and attend classroom instruction as they “were not an online school.” Online instruction is what mom was asking for to accommodate his needs.

Mom reached out to Joyce at FRC. Mom said none of the timelines were being followed for requesting the IEP/Evaluation. Joyce was part of the 504 Planning meeting. This meeting didn't produce any results because the principal would not back down from her position; *he had to attend at least 15 minutes of class and come to school regardless.* The parents had a doctor's note stating he should not be attending school because it was harmful.

Another meeting was held where Joyce brought up the possibility of home bound instruction, Joyce stated “This is no different than if he was home with a medically diagnosed condition that prevented him from going to school. He needs a tutor, and the school needs to provide it, he's sick and you are not recognizing it.” His therapist completely backed up the statement Joyce made, and the school had to concede. The school principal wanted to limit the amount of time the student could have a tutor, based on her experience being a tutor for a student who had had spinal surgery. She stated he could only have a tutor one hour a day. Joyce knew there is nowhere in the statute that limits the amount of time a student can have a tutor. She had the statute and immediately sent it to her.

He now has a tutor and is being evaluated, when possible, for an IEP. He must go to the school for these evaluations. He is not able to go much of the time that these evaluations are scheduled, but Joyce has confidence that they will get them done before the 30 days have passed.

This is the most restrictive environment for him, but the least restrictive at the same time. Without this he would not be receiving an education at all or be put in harm's way by his parents having to have the constant battle of forcing him to go to a place that gives him such high anxiety. He is not learning anyway and worries about everything for days. Joyce's experience with anxiety helped her advocate for this student and she was not backing down; having lived this experience there was much more passion there.

Freedom's People's Choice Awards Ceremony

- Have started the planning process for our Fall awards event happening on October 6th, 2022. Planning for it to be in-person this year. The event will include an awards dinner, silent action, art display, wine pull, 50/50 raffle, and music by the Front Fenders all at the Avalon in Fargo.

ND Ramps

- 4 have been placed since the last meeting.

Freedom Resource Center received an award from the United States Department of Justice and United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota. In appreciation for FRC's contributions to numerous Americans with Disabilities Act enforcement matters in the District of North Dakota.

Dakota Center for Independent Living
Director's Report – May 5, 2022

Two staff resignations - Community/Systems Advocate and MFP TC

MFP/ADRL: MFP/ADRL 27 Transitions

CARES: Kidder County Health requested PPE for 100 people in their county. We sent hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and masks. We are working on a ramp for an individual.

Lee's Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UXIP3E235o>

Held a Photo Voice event where individuals picked out pictures that related to them. The photos were sent to Shutter Fly and put on canvas and their stories were put on the back of the canvas. They will be auctioned off May 12 and the proceeds will go to TBI Support Group and YESS.

Community Ed

Held a Cross Disability Panel for Bismarck State College Social Work class. Disabilities were vision, TBI, spinal cord, mental health, and learning disability.

Panelist talked about their disability and how it has affected them, how they acquired their disability and barriers in the community.

DCIL held an educational presentation to celebrate BI Awareness Month. Nate Schatz and his sister Amber Schatz talked about Nates recovery from a brain injury that he sustained in a one car roll over.

DCIL hosted Mitch Sleep along with his brother Vince, sister Victoria and his mom and Dad presented via ZOOM on living with autism. Mitch and his brother are also host of the podcast "The Autism Podcast: Mitch talked about growing up with a sensory disorder and how hard it was for him to be in crowded theaters, school etc. He credits his family for helping him to overcome his challenges and barriers during his childhood. He is currently working full time in an elementary school and provides peer support to other kids on the autism spectrum.

Technical Assistance

Staff completed a 504 assessment of the Mott National Guard Armory.

OPTIONS RCIL ND SILC REPORT

May 2022

Community Education Training:

- Heather conducted a presentation to CVIC in Grand Forks on “Sexual Assault and Disabilities”
- Heather has developed a series of trainings on “Burnout” for staff and given to the three other CIL’s in ND as well.
- Options published another newsletter and time to start on the next one.

Home Modifications/Technical Assistance:

- Brooke assist six consumers with designs for a ramp, potential funding resources, contractors and vendors. One ramp is in progress.
- Assisted one consumer with designs for a bathroom remodel along with resource funding, contractors and vendors.

Relocations/Diversions:

- Since fiscal year October 2021, thirty-three individuals have relocated back home from nursing facilities and homeless shelters. Fifteen relocated under the MFP grant and eighteen under ADRL grant monies.
- Thirty individuals have been prevented from entering a nursing facility.

Direct Services:

Options received a call from a local home care agency asking about funding ideas for a stairlift for an 18-year-old individual. Discussed various grants such as NODAK, Peddling for Possibilities, and asked if this person has Medicaid and Home Community Based Services (HCBS). After finding out this consumer does have HCBS services, Options suggested that the Home Care Agency reach out to the HCBS case manager to find out if this consumer is on a wavier, and if they are, they could request funding for a stairlift that route. A few minutes later, Options spoke to the home care agency staff and found out this person is on a wavier, and the HCBS case manager will request funding for a stairlift with the help of her supervisor as she had never made this request before. This home care agency may have never known that HCBS could pay for a stairlift without contacting Options. Thankfully, this young person should be able to remain independent in their home with the proper support and resources!

Volunteer Group:

Marcia in Harvey is working with a volunteer group started in Harvey called “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” on behalf of three consumers. They voluntarily hauled a new toilet 45 miles to one consumer’s home who doesn’t drive. The “founder” who started this voluntary group has come into Options several times to discuss some of the needs of individuals who have called him. He’s always checking to see if there are other ways to help them, or to borrow equipment to make them more independent, etc.

Disability Peer Group:

Marcia has started a peer group of parents and individuals with autism within the Harvey area. They have been of great support to each other and planning on how to reach out to others with the same needs.

Job Openings at Options:

Currently Options has seven job openings. Two staff are retiring, two openings for Relocation/Transition Coordinators, two openings with new ACL monies for Rec/Leisure Specialist and Transition Specialist and an Equipment Technician. We would appreciate spreading the word about all our openings.

North Dakota Olmstead Commission

To make the promise of Olmstead a reality in North Dakota:

Vision Statement: *North Dakotans with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most inclusive setting possible.*

Mission Statement: *To promote self-determination for North Dakotans with disabilities, ensuring efficient and effective use of resources to provide opportunities in the least restrictive and most integrated community settings.*

Purpose of the Olmstead Commission

1. Provide Education
 - a. Educate Olmstead Commission members
 - b. Formulate Commission responses to Olmstead matters and disseminate to public
2. Create Awareness
 - a. Interface with advocate entities
 - b. Interface with State entities
 - c. Interface with private provider entities
 - d. Provide testimony to legislature on barriers and inequalities
3. Maintain a public presence
 - a. Analyze/synthesize information on Olmstead matters in front of policymaking bodies
 - b. Disseminate information on Olmstead matters in front of policymaking bodies to promote an informed public and Olmstead Commission
 - c. Educate policymakers continuously and intentionally
 - d. Take a stance on Olmstead Commission issues such as service inequalities and barriers to integration
 - e. Provide position statements on choices with adverse impacts on HCBS
4. Collect public input, analyze and incorporate into work of the Olmstead Commission
 - a. Annual surveys
 - b. Issue-specific surveys
 - c. Annual workplans
 - d. Annual reports
 - e. Periodic Olmstead Plan revisions
5. Receive and Respond to Directed Inquiries
 - a. Individual inquiry process
6. Conduct research into Olmstead Commission issues such as service inequalities and barriers to integration

- a. Gather information
 - b. Engage and educate members
 - c. Discuss implementation of alternative solutions and goals for North Dakota
7. Promote Inclusion and participation of persons with lived experience in creation of policies and services that impact them.
- a. Ask individuals with lived experience to lead OC workgroups, be appointed to the OC, etc.
 - b. Encourage other decision-making bodies to increase inclusion